

R E M A R K S**I. Status of Application**

Claims 1-26, 28-30, 32, 33, and 37-56 are currently pending. Claim 28 is amended.

Claims 27, 31, and 34-36 are cancelled without prejudice. Claim 56 is new.

The Examiner is thanked for discussing the Office Action with the undersigned attorney in a telephone call on April 18, 2007. U.S. Patent No. 6,198,285B1 (“Kormos”) was discussed. The Examiner pointed out the TV tuner 82. No agreement was reached.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**A. Rejections over Kormos in view of August**

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 25-47, 49-52, 54, and 55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,198,285 (“Kormos”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,503,188 (“August ‘188”). Claims 27, 30, 31, and 34-36 are cancelled. Claim 28 has been amended so that claims 28 -30, 32, and 33 are directly or indirectly dependent on new claim 56, which is discussed further, below.

Kormos discloses an MRI examination room 14 for conducting a medical procedure having an MRI scanner and a display/control terminal 24. (Col. 4, lines 31-36; col. 4, lines 49-58; Fig. 9). The display portion of the display/control terminal may be an LCD display device. In addition, as shown in Fig. 5, a TV tuner or video recorder 82 may be provided outside of the examination room 14. (See Col. 4, lines 34-48; col. 6, line 60 - col. 7, line 15; col 7, line 65 - col. 8, line 6, Fig. 5). The purpose of the TV tuner/video recorder 82 is not explained.

1. Independent Claim 1

Independent claim 1, which defines a room for use in conducting a medical procedure, requires, in part, an MRI assembly, “a screen disposed, at least in part, “within the MRI assembly,” a plurality of scenes on the screen, and means for changing a scene for display by

moving the screen.” As shown in Figs. 1A and Fig. 2 of the present application, in one example, the screen is within a space defined by the MRI assembly. In the example of Fig. 1A and Fig. 2, the assembly defines the MRI examination room.

Kormos does not show “a screen disposed, at least in part, within the magnetic resonance imaging assembly”, (emphasis added) as required by claim 1. As shown in Fig. 5 of Kormos, the TV tuner/video recorder 82 in Kormos is outside of the examination room 14 that contains the MRI scanner 12. The TV tuner of Kormos could not, therefore be within the magnetic resonance imaging assembly, as claimed. Furthermore, an image on a conventional, cathode ray TV would be too distorted due to interference caused by the MRI magnets and operation of the MRI assembly during imaging, for viewing. Also, the display/control terminal 24, which is part of a display control station in Kormos, is shown to be adjacent to the MRI assembly 12 in Fig. 1, not within it, as claimed. (Col. 4, lines 49-58)

Kormos also does not show “a plurality of scenes on a screen” and “means for changing a scene for display by moving the screen”, as claimed.

Neither does August ‘188. August ‘188 shows a rollable health care display for attachment to furniture, such as a bed, in a patient’s room. A scene is rolled onto a horizontal roller supported on a display member like a window shade, and displayed by pulling down one end of the display member, as shown in Fig. 3. The display member can also be rolled from one vertical roller to another, as shown in Fig. 4. In Figs. 5 and 6, a plurality of separate horizontal rollers are provided to allow for display of a plurality of scenes. A selected scene may be displayed by unrolling a respective display member on a respective roller.

August '188 does not, therefore, show a plurality of scenes on a single screen and a "means for changing a scene for display by moving the screen" (emphasis added), as claimed. August changes a scene by moving (unrolling) separate display members.

Claim 1 and the claims dependent upon it would not, therefore, have been obvious in light of Kormos and August. The dependent claims recite patentable subject matter, as well.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectively requested.

2. Independent Claim 12

Independent claim 12, which defines a room for use in conducting medical procedures, requires, in part, "a screen; a plurality of images on the screen; and means for moving the screen across the room to display a selected one of the plurality of images."

August does not show "a screen with a plurality of images. August either shows one screen with one image (Figs. 3 and 4) or a plurality of separate screens with a respective plurality of images (Figs. 5 and 6).

August also does not show "means for moving the screen across the room to display a selected one of the plurality of images", when the "means" is interpreted in light of the specification. As discussed above, in August, separate display members are manually unrolled to display different images. In addition, the display members are not moved "across" the room.

Claim 12 and the claims dependent upon it are not, therefore, obvious in light of Kormos and August. The dependent claims recite patentable subject matter, as well.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

3. Independent Claim 22

Independent claim 22 is said to be rejected in light of August '188 (U.S. Patent No. 6,503,188), however, reference is made to a curtain 28 in Fig. 1, which does not appear in August '188, but does appear in U.S. Patent No. 5,681,259 ("August '259"). The Examiner is

requested to clarify the rejection. If claim 22 and the claims dependent upon are rejected in again in light of August '259, the rejection should not be made Final because this rejection was not proper or complete.

If the Examiner is referring to August '259, then neither Kormos nor August '259 show, at least, "a motor coupled to the belt," "a cartridge storing the screen," or "the screen being attachable to the belt," as claimed. The cartridge shown in Fig. 4 is not used in conjunction with the curtain and track of Fig. 1.

August '188 does not show a track, a belt, a motor, or a cartridge as claimed, either.

Claim 22 and the claims dependent upon it would not, therefore, have been obvious in light of Kormos and August '259 or August '188. The dependent claims recite patentable subject matter, as well.

Withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

4. Independent Method Claim 37

Independent claim 37, which defines a method of using a room for a magnetic resonance imaging procedure, requires, in part, "moving a screen comprising a plurality of scenes, each scene comprising at least one image."

In August '188, there is only one scene comprising a plurality of images, on each display member. No screen is shown comprising a plurality of scenes, each comprising at least one image, as claimed.

Claim 37 and the claims dependent upon it would not, therefore, have been obvious in light of Kormos and August '188. Neither does August '259. The dependent claims recite patentable subject matter, as well.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

B. Other Dependent Claims

Claims 3, 23, and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kormos, August, and U.S. Patent No. 5,493,802 (“Simson”). Claims 8, 48, and 53 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kormos, August, and U.S. Patent No. 5,917,395 (“Overweg”). Claims 13 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kormos, August, and U.S. Patent No. 4,173,087 (“Saylor”).

These claims are directly, or indirectly, dependant on allowable independent claims, as discussed above. These claims are also, therefore, allowable. In addition, these claims include further patentable subject matter.

IV. New Claim

New independent claim 56 defines a room for conducting magnetic resonance imaging, wherein recited portions of the MRI assembly define, at least in part, the floor, ceiling, and certain walls of the room, as shown and described with respect to Fig. 1A, for example. An arcuate track is coupled to the ceiling. Opposing ferromagnetic poles define an imaging volume. The arcuate track extends at least partially around the room, between the imaging volume and at least the first, second, and third walls of the room. A flexible screen is movably supported along the track. The flexible screen extends vertically from the ceiling to the floor. At least one storage device is provided to store at least a portion of the screen. The screen has a selectively displayed portion extending at least partially around the room, between the imaging volume and at least the first, second, and third walls, and a selectively stored portion, during use. The selectively stored portion is stored in the at least one storage device. A plurality of images are on the screen. Each image extends from the floor to the ceiling and extends across the displayed portion of the screen, such that the image displayed on the displayed portion of the screen is

arcuate. Means are provided for moving the screen along the arcuate track, to selectively display an image.

At least some of the images have a common theme. A first decoration is provided on the ceiling, a second decoration is provided on the floor, and a third decoration is provided on the first and second poles. All the decorations are consistent with the common theme of at least some of the images.

By decorating the floor, ceiling, and poles with decorations having a common theme with at least some of the scenes that can be selected, as claimed, the poles of the MRI assembly, along with the floor and ceiling, may blend in with the displayed scene. The extent of the screen and scene thereon in this example (from floor to ceiling and across at least three walls) obscures or blocks from view at least three of the walls of the examination room. The arcuate shape of the scene, and the decorations, as claimed, contribute to creating a three dimensional presentation of the scene. Providing a plurality of scenes to choose from, at least some of which are consistent with the theme of the decorations, and a means for changing the scene, enables the patient to select a preferred scene that can be readily displayed without delaying imaging. The combination of the claimed elements contributes to camouflaging the MRI assembly and presenting a panoramic image selected by the patient that may be less intimidating to the patient and may relax the patient, facilitating MRI imaging.

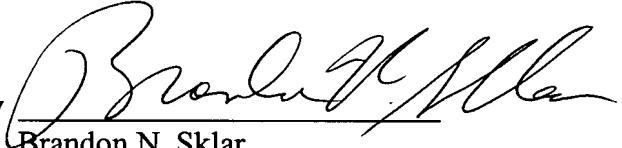
The claimed combination is not shown or suggested in the cited references.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 1-55, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, consideration or reconsideration of these claims, as appropriate, is requested and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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